

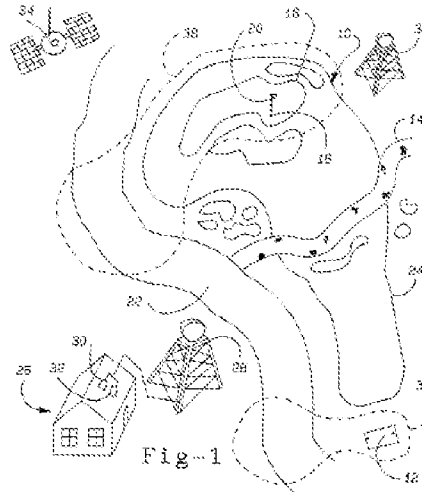
REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) given Dudley (U.S. Patent No. 5,772,534) (“Dudley”). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Dudley. Claims 5 and 10-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Dudley in view of Sirén (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,236) (“Sirén”). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration.

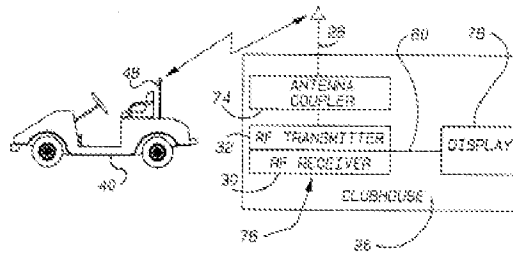
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) given Dudley. Prior to addressing the merits of this rejection, the Applicants believe it would be helpful to first briefly describe and characterize Dudley’s teachings.

Dudley describes a satellite enhanced golf information system generally exemplified in his FIG. 1 (reproduced below for the convenience of the reader).



Dudley provides for a single antenna (28) to communicate between his infrastructure element (represented here by a clubhouse (26)) and corresponding transceivers mounted on golf carts (40) (the latter being more clearly shown in Dudley’s FIG. 5, which is reproduced below).



Because Dudley suggests that his golf cart platforms can comprise differential beacon receivers, Dudley also makes provision for a second transmitting antenna (36) that transmits corresponding signals to such receivers to permit the latter to calculate positional errors that are otherwise typically produced when receiving position signals from a GPS satellite (34).

Dudley is therefore seen to teach only the provision of a single access point (i.e., antenna 28 and its corresponding transceiving equipment) for use by his contemplated golf cart platforms, as his second transmitting antenna (36) does not serve as an access point.

Dudley then teaches that this sole access point can serve to facilitate the “exchange of information between a golf cart and a home station, such as a clubhouse.”¹ Dudley discloses that such information can comprise location information, a status signal regarding a golfing party’s rate of play, play-related warnings (regarding, for example, playing too close to a particular green or playing too close to a limited access area), hazardous weather conditions that warrant “the special attention of a golf cart driver,”² and emergency signals (to indicate, for example, a golfer’s “emergency or medical emergency condition”³).

Dudley is therefore seen to teach *only* the transmission and exchange of golf course infrastructure information.

¹ *Dudley* at column 3, lines 13-14.

² *Id* at column 4, lines 10-11.

³ *Id* at column 4, lines 18-19.

The Applicants' present teachings, however, provide for a *plurality* of wireless access points to be disposed about a golf course and to then further utilize a wireless communication protocol that supports *both* the automatic updating of golf course infrastructure information *as well as subscriber communications*. Dudley, on the other hand, provides only a single wireless access point and further only utilizes that wireless access point to facilitate the exchange of golf course infrastructure information. Dudley, in particular, does not suggest or disclose using a plurality of wireless access points and further offers no teaching or hint that such an infrastructure might be utilized to support subscriber communications.

It is clear, of course, that a subscriber communication is different than a communication regarding golf course infrastructure information. The Applicants own specification, for example, clearly delineates these two concepts and poses them as being different from one another. Dudley is therefore seen to disclose and effect nothing more than that which the Applicants have already identified as comprising prior art practice in Paragraph 0003 of the present application.

These differences are well represented in the claims. Claim 1, for example, specifically provides for "a plurality of wireless access points disposed about a golf course" and further requires that the wireless communications protocol used with those wireless access points both "automatically [update] golf course infrastructure information and subscriber communications." As Dudley provides no teachings with respect to either of these points of distinction, the Applicants respectfully submit that Dudley cannot be said to anticipate the recitations of Claim 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Dudley in view of Sirén.

Sirén discloses an approach to allocating communication resources and providing services over a wireless network. There is no suggestion in either Dudley or Sirén that the approaches of Sirén might be useful in Dudley's context. In particular, there is nothing in either reference to suggest that it may be useful to support both golf course infrastructure communications and subscriber communications by a common wireless communications infrastructure and to then further dedicate a part, but not all, of that wireless communication resource to specifically supporting those golf course infrastructure communications. In particular, as noted above, Dudley is silent with respect to the notion of providing wireless communication resources on a golf course for subscriber communications. To make the combination suggested by the Examiner requires first that the teachings of Dudley be somehow modified to include support for subscribers and to then further modify that construct such that a portion, but not all, of the wireless communication infrastructure be dedicated to supporting only golf course infrastructure communications.

The Applicants respectfully submit that these references are so bereft of any specific teachings, suggestions, or enabling disclosure in such regards as to well instantiate a lack of motivation on the part of one skilled in the art to make such a combination in the absence of the Applicants' own present teachings. The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claim 15 does not comprise an obvious combination of these two references.

Claims 2-14 and 16-22

The remaining claims are ultimately dependent upon one of the independent claims discussed above. In addition, while the Applicants believe that other arguments are available to highlight the allowable subject matter presented in various of these dependent claims, the Applicants also believe that the comments set forth herein regarding allowability of the independent claims are sufficiently compelling to warrant

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/767,407
Response to Office Action dated February 13, 2007
Response to Office Action of September 21, 2006

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present exclusion of such additional points for the sake of brevity and expedited consideration.

Conclusion

There being no other objections to or rejections of Claims 1-22, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims may be passed to allowance.

Respectfully requested,

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Date: February 16, 2007

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